

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 80

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to recognize James Baker on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, James O. Baker is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for forty-two years with Middle Tennessee Electric; and

WHEREAS, hired as an electrical engineer in 1960, Mr. Baker, aided by his dedication, self-assurance, and temerity, rose quickly through the organization, becoming Assistant General Manager in 1979 and attaining the post of President in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baker is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous civic organizations, including Lions Club, Sportsman's Club, and lending his support to the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association for whom he serves on the Group Purchase, Legislative, and Tax Committees; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Vanderbilt University, Mr. Baker gives selflessly of his time to serve as Chairman of the Joint Use and Power Supply Committees of the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association and as Chairman of the Government Relations Committee; and

WHEREAS, James Baker has proudly represented Tennessee on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board since 1985; his dutiful service to the association, an organization that represents the nation's 1,020 nonprofit, consumer-owned rural electric cooperatives, led him to be elected President in 1997 and chosen to represent the association on the board of the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto, California; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baker astutely served as the President of the Central District Managers Association and of the Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association Board; and

WHEREAS, a loving husband, father, and grandfather, Mr. Baker is a stalwart member of the North Boulevard Church of Christ in Murfreesboro; he enjoys exploring the arts of hunting, fishing, and cooking in his spare time; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baker exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, James Baker has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we extend to James O. Baker our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.